

PRESS RELEASE

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For Immediate Release

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Madison, Wisconsin -- Erik C. Peterson, United States Attorney for the Western District of Wisconsin, announced that John High, 34, of Madison, Wis., was sentenced today by Chief U.S. District Judge Barbara B. Crabb to 17 years and 8 months in prison, without the possibility of parole, for unlawfully possessing a stolen firearm as a convicted felon. High was convicted of this charge November 20, 2007, following a two-day jury trial in federal court in Madison.

On May 1, 2007, Madison Police Department officers executed a search warrant at High's grandmother's residence on Schroeder Road in Madison and located a .22 caliber revolver and a box of .22 caliber ammunition in the bedroom High occupied. The government proved that High lived with his grandmother because his personal belongings were in the bedroom, mail addressed to him at that address was located throughout the apartment, and High repeatedly told his probation officer that he was living with his grandmother. The probation officer also testified that she had conducted a home visit with High at the Schroeder Road apartment.

The .22 caliber revolver was recovered in a closet, next to a box that contained mail and prescription medicine belonging to High. The .22 caliber ammunition was

found lying next to a television in the same room.

High's sentence was enhanced because he has three prior violent felony convictions and one prior conviction for a serious drug offense.

The charge against High was the result of an investigation conducted by the Madison Police Department. The prosecution of the case has been handled by Assistant U.S. Attorney Rita M. Rumbelow.

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